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Benguo Li  
1/19/2007

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) An isolated HCV self-replicating polynucleotide comprising:

- (a) a 5'-Non Translated Region;
- (b) a HCV polynucleotide encoding for an HCV polyprotein that comprises: HCV NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A, and NS5B polypeptides, which contains an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: G(2042)C-or G(2042)R, wherein the amino acid is numerated from the beginning of the coding region of I377/NS2-3' construct (EMBL genebank accession number No. AJ 242651); and
- (c) a 3'-Non Translated Region.

10. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1148)G, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, L(1701)F, I(1984)V, T(1993)A, S(2404)P, L(2155)P, P(2166)L, and M(2992)T.

11. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 10, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: E(1202)G.

12. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: K(1691)R.

13. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: commonly designated as R(1135)K, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, T(1993)A, and P(2166)L.

14. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: E(1202)G, I(1984)V, G(2042)C, and M(2992)T.
15. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11 wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: S(1148)G, E(1202)G, L(1701)F, G(2042)R, and S(2404)P.
16. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.
17. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is an RNA molecule encoded by a DNA selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.

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12/18/2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) An isolated HCV self-replicating polynucleotide comprising:

- (a) a 5'-Non Translated Region;
- (b) a HCV polynucleotide encoding for an HCV polyprotein that comprises: HCV NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A, and NS5B polypeptides, which contains an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: G(2042)C or G(2042)R, wherein the amino acid is numerated from the beginning of the coding region of I377/NS2-3' construct (EMBL genebank accession number No. AJ 242651); and
- (c) a 3'-Non Translated Region.

10. (currently amended) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1148)G, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, L(1701)F, I(1984)V, T(1993)A, S(2404)P, L(2155)P, P(2166)L, and M(2992)T.

11. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 10, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: E(1202)G.

12. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: K(1691)R.

13. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: commonly designated as R(1135)K, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, T(1993)A, and P(2166)L.

Application No. 10/789,355  
Response dated December 15, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2006

14. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: E(1202)G, I(1984)V, G(2042)C, and M(2992)T.

15. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11 wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: S(1148)G, E(1202)G, L(1701)F, G(2042)R, and S(2404)P.

16. (previously amended) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.

17. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is an RNA molecule encoded by a DNA selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.

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Borogovik L;  
3/10/2007

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) An isolated HCV self-replicating polynucleotide comprising:
  - (a) a 5'-Non Translated Region;
  - (b) a HCV polynucleotide encoding for an HCV polyprotein that comprises: HCV NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A, and NS5B polypeptides, which contains an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: G(2042)C or G(2042)R, wherein the amino acid is numerated from the beginning of the coding region of 1377/NS2-3' construct (EMBL genebank accession number No. AJ242651); and
  - (c) a 3'-Non Translated Region.
10. (currently amended) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1148)G, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, I(1701)F, I(1984)V, T(1993)A, S(2404)P, I(2155)P, P(2166)L, and M(2992)T.
11. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 10, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: E(1202)G.
12. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: K(1691)R.
13. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: commonly designated as R(1135)K, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, T(1993)A, and P(2166)L.

Application No. 10/789,355  
Response dated February 2, 2007  
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 23, 2007

14. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: E(1202)G, I(1984)V, G(2042)C, and M(2992)T.

15. (cancelled) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11 wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: S(1148)G, E(1202)G, L(1701)F, G(2042)R, and S(2404)P.

16. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.

17. (previously presented) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is an RNA molecule encoded by a DNA selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5(6,7 and 25.